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Rhapsody at The Ritz By Buddy Roberts



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ON THE COVER: : The weather may be colder, but there's still plenty of good fishing on the lake in January.

Logan Martin Homes Edition LAKESIDE Living

> Covering life along Logan Martin Lake since 1994

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Last salute to the Admiral

ith the passing of Dennis Brooks, Logan Martin Lake has lost one of its most distinguished residents. I began hearing about him shortly after I came to work in St. Clair County in 2010, from a colleague who, like Brooks, was a member of the Rotary Club of Pell City. It was at a club meeting a few weeks later that I met him for the first time.

I liked the smiling silver-haired gentleman wearing the tan slacks and colorful short-sleeved floral shirt the second we shook hands, even if his attire and laid-back demeanor were more characteristic of a beachcomber at the tiki bar than that of a decorated career military officer who'd commanded an aircraft carrier and regularly paced the corridors of the Pentagon.

But the friendly and unpretentious Rotarian was, in fact, Rear Admiral Dennis M. Brooks, United States Navy, retired. Alumnus of the U.S. Naval Academy. Fighter pilot, test pilot and teacher. Commander of fighter squadrons, a replenishment oiler, a supercarrier, a carrier group and the Seventh Fleet's battle force and carrier strike forces. The first commander of the Joint Task Force, Middle East, which gave him oversight of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf. Back on shore, he served as director of the Navy Space Command and military director of the



National Reconnaissance Office.

It says much about the Admiral's character that you'd never have known any of that had you encountered him around the lake after he retired to Mays Bend in the early 1990s. He and his wife Lorrie (who had worked for the U.S. State Department) immersed themselves in the community, where Brooks served as a member of the local Rotary Club (and as governor of Rotary District 6860), a founder of Pell City's Habitat for Humanity and a member of the Pell City Library Guild and the board of the Eastern Health Foundation.

Married 60 years, he and Lorrie were enthusiastic supporters of Pell City's Center for Education and Performing Arts, which was filled to capacity last month when it hosted the Admiral's memorial service. The local eulogy preceded interment in the



U.S. Naval Academy Cemetery in Annapolis.

He was also a good friend of Lakeside Living and kindly consented for us to spotlight their home in our Lakeside Living in Style feature. We extend our condolences to the Brooks family, and we hope he would have liked this issue, which includes some winter fishing tips from a local guide, reminisces of a founding member of the Birmingham Sailing Club, a conversation with the new president of the Logan Martin Lake Protection Association and visit to the home of fellow Rotarian Matthew Pope and his family.

We hope you enjoy this issue too. It's for the Admiral.











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Catching crappie in cold weather

Crappie are a great sport fish because they will bite all year round. But that doesn't mean that they are always an easy fish to tackle.

Crappie are active in the morning and in the evening and will shelter under docks and piers. In the winter, wait until the water gets to around 58 degrees after a big frost. At this point, minnows will congregate in the shallow channels of the lakes. The crappie will follow them there and gorge themselves on the smorgasbord of baitfish.

Also, look for boathouses that are built in shallow water next to deep drop-offs. These places are where the fish will be able to come up and feed and then retreat back into deeper water. Anglers should employ multiple colors to see what the crappie are hitting that day.

After January, crappie will become more aggressive and once again go for more active bait and lures.





Sun	6	34
Mon	7	24
Tue	8	16
Wed	9	13
Thu	10	16
Fri	11	19
Sat	12	24

Sun	13	
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	62
	74





Lake Levels

Full Pool: 465 Feet Winter Pool: 460 Feet Flood Pool: 467 Feet

This graph and information come from the LakesOnline.com website. For up-to-date lake levels, log on to http://www.loganmartin.info/level/







Local guide recommends Logan Martin for catching crappie in winter

Written and photographed by John Dowd

ome winter, many anglers may be inclined to hang up their hats and reels, but keeping them out despite colder weather can be a good idea. Logan Martin Lake is known for being a great lake for year-round living and fishing. The lake hosts many bass and crappie tournaments throughout the year, but as things die down in the winter, less people will be on the lake. For

locals, this is a prime opportunity to get out on the water and to avoid the crowds.

Winter can be prime fishing time, according to local fishing guide Dave McKinney. He guides on several Alabama lakes including Logan Martin, Neely Henry and Weiss. He names Logan Martin as his favorite, believing it produces more fish.



According to McKinney, winter is a good time to fish for crappie, a small predatory member of the sunfish family. Anglers are likely to have good fortune in trying for them in the off season. This is because, "as a big frost hits, the minnows will die off" and the crappie will move in





to channels where the minnows will congregate and gorge themselves.

As the population of baitfish drops, the crappie will become hungrier and more desperate. As in the summer, Bass Assassin plastics and similar baits work well when thrown under piers. Specifically for the winter, McKinney suggests practicing a spider rig technique while using live minnows hooked onto high visibility slider jigs. Another method he likes to use is a double minnow rig, which involves placing two hooks on the line about a foot or two apart each with a live minnow attached.

His spider rig technique employs the use of multiple rods while trolling. There are two ways this can be done. One way is to set the rods out like spider legs behind the boat. The more difficult method, which McKinney prefers, is to set the rods out in front of the boat. This gives fisherman a higher chance of getting a bite because there are more lines in the water. When using the spider rig method, McKinney employs several 14-foot rods to avoid getting the lines tangled in the prop of the trolling motor.

According to McKinney, the best time to go out and try for crappie is when the water is around 58 degrees. Cooler months are also the time to prepare for the summer months, he says.

One suggestion he offers is to go out when the water is low and check where the shallow areas are. Those are the places to come back and fish in the summer. It can also be helpful to look for boathouses that are in shallow water on the edge of deep water. The fish like to come up to feed there and then quickly retreat into the deeper water.

For more fishing advice, McKinney may be contacted at Davemckinney10@gmail.com or 256-264-3558.

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St. Clair County team reels in Alabama Bass Trail Championship

Adam Bain, Kris Colley claim victory, win new bass boat

Written by John Dowd Submitted photos

aseball may be regarded as America's pastime, but a case could be made that Alabama's pastime is bass fishing.

In this state almost everyone fishes, and those who don't often watch as their friends and family members participate in the sport. Alabama hosts hundreds of fishing tournaments each year, including many on Logan Martin, and local anglers are no strangers to competitive fishing.

"Once you've grown up with football and sports in school, I guess it's just the natural progression," said Adam Bain of Pell City, who teamed with Ashville resident Kris Colley to win the Alabama Bass Trail (ABT) Series





ABT champions Kris Colley and Adam Bain celebrate their victory in their brand-new bass boat prize.

championship in October. The team has competed together for almost 10 years and has fished in the ABT Series since 2013.

Bain's and Colley's was one of 178 boats that entered the championship tournament on Neely Henry Lake on October 26-27. The fishing, they recall, was difficult, as the daytime temperature was unusually warm for autumn, and it dropped into the low 40s at night. It also rained for most of the day before and into the first day of the tournament. The afternoon of the first day was where most of the competitors had their best luck.

Timing proved to be the trick for Colley and Bain. The team got out early on the day of the tournament, in the first flight of boats and hit the holes they knew would fish well, from practice sessions they had earlier that week.

Each team was allowed several days of practice before the tournament, according to Kay Donaldson, ABT's program director. "Some folks are seeing the body of water for the first time when they come out to enter a tournament," she said. "It helps to get a day or two of practice to get acquainted with the area, and how the fish will be biting."

Being already familiar with the area was an extra advantage for the local team, especially Colley. He grew up around Neely Henry, so he knew the hot spots and where they would find the best fishing.

Any competitive tournament, especially a championship, brings in some of the best fishermen in the state, and many of them use the most advanced equipment. Colley and Bain, however, prefer old-school fishing. "If someone wants to know how deep it is, we just stick the rod down in the water," Bain said with a chuckle. They didn't even turn on their depth finder during the competition.

He also noted that the whole event was extremely humane for the fish. Teams were docked points for bringing in dead fish. The bass were kept in water the entire time and even weighed in water to avoid unnecessary damage to the fish. All were then released after each day of the tournament.



Bain and Colley won the championship by reeling in 30.04 pounds over the two days. As with many of the competitors, they did better the first day, scoring 18.75 pounds in the afternoon. Their second day their catch was 11.29 pounds, which pushed them well into first place for the win. Their prize was a Phoenix 819 bass boat. Bain said the team hopes to participate in more tournaments, but it is getting harder now that they're both fathers.

Competition fishing isn't for everyone, though it has great rewards. It can be a demanding sport. There are many weekends spent practicing and testing lures and fishing techniques, along with trying to qualify for highertier tournaments. The teams are also required to pay the entry fees, which can be quite expensive, depending on the tournament. Then there are gas, food, housing and incidental travel and competition costs.

An ABT team must pay an entry fee of \$1,300, which gets its boat into five tournaments. The ABT sponsors 12 competitions a year, five in the southern division and five in the northern division, along with one open competition and one championship. Of all the teams that compete, only 75 per division can qualify for the championship. Along with that, the ABT enters its winning high school and college tournament teams into the championship.

The 2018 championship raised more than any other event held by the ABT Series, according to Donaldson. "The goal is to bring an economic impact to lakeside communities," she said. "Generally, a tournament brings in about \$300,000 into community, for a one-day event." The 2018 event's numbers are still being crunched, but it is estimated to have raised roughly \$500,000.





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Black Jacket Symphony with Marc Martel pays tribute to Queen

Written by Buddy Roberts Submitted photos

Perennial favorite Black Jacket Symphony returns to the lakeside area this month with two performances of Queen's A Night at the Opera at Talladega's Historic Ritz Theatre. Featuring Marc Martel, the tribute concert will be staged at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, January 4 and 5. Call 256-315-0000 or visit www.ritztalladega.com for ticket information. The show is part of The Ritz' 2018-19 Fall-Winter Season.

With Martel providing the vocals of iconic lead singer

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Vocalist Marc Martel sings the part of Queen front man Freddie Mercury during the Black Jacket Symphony tribute performance in Talladega this month.

Freddie Mercury, the Black Jacket Symphony will perform songs from Queen's 1975 album A Night at the Opera, which includes the British rock band's bestknown single, Bohemian Rhapsody. Martel, a native of Canada who has toured for several years with The Queen Extravaganza (the official Queen tribute band), provided some vocals for Bohemian Rhapsody, the 2018 biographical film, starring Rami Malek as Mercury. Described by Rolling Stone magazine as having a "striking" vocal resemblance to Mercury, Martel has been a full-time musician since 2001 ("straight out of college") and fronted the award-winning Christian rock band Downhere. He spoke by phone from Nashville about his upcoming performance in Talladega.

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"I move around a lot on stage," Martel says. "I can't stand still while singing Queen."

Do audience members have to be longtime Queen fans to enjoy the show?

"Absolutely not. One of the main things I hear people say after these shows is, 'I didn't realize how many Queen songs I know.' Because Queen produced so many different sounds, people don't always identify a song as theirs."

Are you a Queen fan?

"I am now, that's for sure, but I didn't grow up listening to them. I started to as people started telling me I sounded like Freddie Mercury."

What are your favorite Queen songs?

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Bart Perry, Agent 1000 Forrest Lane, Suite 1 Pell City, Alabama 35128 **205-525-0726** www.bartperry.com "It's hard to beat 'Bohemian Rhapsody,' but 'Love of My Life,' 'Under Pressure' and 'Someone to Love' are among my favorites."

What can the audience expect from the performance?

"Something that's halfway between a true tribute show and what you might see and hear at a symphony. It's more refined that a traditional rock show, but there's still a lot of engagement with the audience. Our aim is to recreate the sound as closely as possible while performing with the energy Queen's music deserves. It's a really entertaining show."

What accounts for Queen's enduring popularity?

"Amazing songwriting creativity combined with the sound they could produce. I believe it's the only band ever to have each of its four leads to be credited with a number-one hit. Not even The Beatles did that. Their quirkiness, their campiness, not taking themselves too seriously and never succumbing to the musical fads of the day. They were not always a critical success, but they were able to connect with people, which is a lot more important in the long run. They produced rock anthems that are singable even in large venues like stadiums. And the fact that they had the greatest front man of all time didn't hurt either."

How do you approach your tribute performances?

"It's a fine line I try to walk. I have never sat down and examined Freddie Mercury's performances in a studious manner, and when I perform Queen, I never pretend I'm Freddie Mercury. I never use a half microphone stand or wear a yellow jacket. I do move around a lot on stage – I can't stand still when singing Queen – and I may use an iconic move he was known for doing, but I try to pay tribute to him by a vocal performance worthy of him."

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Nonagenarian Harry Reich recalls the origins of local sailing club

Sail on,

sail on,

sailon

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Written by Sherry Kughn Photographed by Bob Crisp

ith the wind in his hair and his sail, Harry Reich hits the water at least once a week, weather permitting. The water in his case is Logan Martin Lake, home to the Birmingham Sailing Club. Now in his 90s, Harry Reich is the club's oldest founding member. The lean and tanned retiree recently sat down to remember its beginnings when his friend Sam Caldwell managed to convince about 15 initial members to invest in lakefront property before there was

Caldwell, who died six years ago at age 94, sold the members on the idea that they would enjoy a sailing club, complete with a clubhouse and docks. It worked. Reich says he and the others never regretted becoming part of the venture, and the club has grown considerably in the more than halfcentury since.

a lake.

"We have between 140 and 150 members," Reich said, as he sat in a light-filled conference room that faces the woods of Trussville's Industrial Park. The nonagenarian can often be found there at Reich Companies, still helping out at

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The Birmingham Sailing Club hosts a number of regattas each year on Logan Martin Lake.

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the business his father started in 1938. Two of his sons now own the company, which sells foundry equipment.

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Reich has long had an interest in sailing, as did Caldwell, a World War II veteran who worked for Alabama Power Company. After many years of driving a couple of hours to pursue the hobby at Lake Guntersville, Caldwell got the idea of creating a sailing club on the Coosa River when he learned about the utility provider's plans to create a lake in the Pell City area.

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By August of 1962, Caldwell had studied maps and pinpointed a lot about 10 miles south of Pell City that he believed would be suitable for



Logan Martin has been home to the sailing club since the mid-1960s.

building a pier and a clubhouse. Named the Birmingham Sailing Club, by 1963 there were 44 charter members who incorporated and elected Caldwell as its first commodore. The lake was another year away.

The members wasted no time pitching in to make plans to build launching ramps and docks on dry ground. "We built the docks and ramps before the water came up," Reich said.

Water began inching up beneath the dock on July 16, 1964. The experience brought back memories for Reich.

"I had sailed when I was about 7, 8 or 9 years old," he said. "My uncle was a lifelong sailor on the Hudson River."

Reich's family lived in New York state at that time, and he only sailed a couple of times as a youngster. The memory of the experience, though, stayed with him. After the Birmingham Sailing Club started, he and his wife, Marilyn,

There is nothing more important to us than our reputation. We'll let one of our customers speak for themselves.

-Bill Nelson

Dear Bill,

I know you're very proud of your company, and you absolutely should be. Working with you and your team reminded me that there are still businesses where interactions aren't only transactional. Your team has treated me like family from the word go, and I can't say enough about the experience of working with you all.

When I think of the companies I most enjoy interacting with, I think of companies like Chik-Fil-A and Publix. Places where you feel they truly appreciate your business and are genuinely happy to do their jobs and interact with you as a client. In every sense, each employee that I had the pleasure of interacting with from The Nelson Team made me feel the same way. And it doesn't stop there! The companies that you affiliate with share your mentality and passion for your work. The very first time I spoke with Josh, I felt like I'd made a friend. He was so professional, proactive, and thorough - but had fun at the same time! I can't say enough about his expertise, patience, and support through this whole project. Given the struggles we had with our HOA, Josh was a blessing! Having Vale and Michael and the house felt like my cousins had come over to help. The conversation was great, and the work ethic never let up. They were FANTASTIC! Barry and his team operated almost scientifically, communicating very clearly what I needed to know to keep everything healthy. They were patient with my "high tech" controller, and very knowledgeable — I appreciate that so much. Bob and his subs have been wonderful, too. Randy McDaniel was outstanding. Truly — every single person involved has been a pleasure to work with. I appreciate that your expectations of your team and your subs are the same. It certainly shows.

All of that is only to comment on the relationships that were forged. The quality of the work speaks for itself. I appreciate you personally being on the job, chatting with me, and making sure I have the prettiest bolder "art" around. I have received so many inquiries about the work, and I'm very proud to pass your name along.

When I look at that yard, I see a future of memories. I see a beautiful place that my children will remember for the rest of their lives. The very first time Hannah ran down the grass towards "Hannah's House," my heart felt like it was going to burst. You and your team gave us a place to truly live and enjoy each other. It's not just beautiful — it's a conduit to being outside in God's house and really being intentional about our time together. It's a space we never had before, and I couldn't be more grateful.

If there is ever anything, I can do for you or your team, say the word. You all truly are thought of as family in our home.

Warmest Regards,

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raised their seven children and made sailing a part of their family life. Marilyn often picnicked with the children at the club.

"It was a fun lifestyle," said Reich. "First, we built a pavilion with a fireplace, and now the fireplace is part of the clubhouse."

The club now boasts an attractive building that sits on a wooded lot atop a small hill with a view of the lake

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Founding member Harry Reich saw the development of the sailing club's property and is still an active sailor.

and sailing area below. Included are dressing rooms, hot showers and a kitchen. Tent spaces on the grounds are available to members. On the water, there are fixed and floating ramps, and there are slips available to members who wish to leave their boats in the water. In addition, there is a fenced-in parking area for boats that sit on trailers.



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Inside the clubhouse.

Members encourage young people to sail. As soon as they pass a swimming test, they are able to begin learning to sail as part of the junior sailing program. Beginners of any age can also enroll in the club's Learn to Sail program.

By the time the Reich children -- who are now

scattered throughout the nation -- were old enough, they began sailing, a hobby that has stayed with several of them. Peter and David, his two sons who operate the family business, sail and have served as commodores of the club. Another son, Tom, the Reichs' oldest child, who died at age 33, attended Tulane University while serving
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The sailing club's property boasts a panoramic view of the lake.

as captain of the sailing team. Reich and his wife have 18 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Members of the sailing club are close friends, he says, and they attend and participate in events throughout the year, including regattas and fundraisers.

Reich says he is glad that the club remains a vital

place that provides enjoyment to many and shows no signs of going anywhere, more than 50 years after Sam Caldwell's idea became reality.

"In spite of the competition for sports," he said, "many young people are enthusiastic about sailing."

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POPE FAMILY EXTOLLS THE JOYS OF LIFE ON LOGAN MARTIN

Written by Kelli Tipton Photographed by Bob Crisp

n the summer of 2013, Matthew and Danielle Pope moved into their custom-built, fourbedroom, four-and-a-half bath, Craftsmanstyle home in The Reserve at Logan Martin Lake Subdivision in Pell City.

Their first child, Maeva Grace, was born during the move, and in the years since, the Popes have welcomed Glover James, 3, and Selah Ruby, who is



The Popes with their dog Sam.



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JANUARY 2019 | LAKESIDE Living & Logan Martin Homes | 43



Beige granite countertops, hardwood floors and a tile backsplash are durable and easy to clean.

now a year old.

Matthew is a vice president and loan officer at Metro Bank in Pell City, and Danielle is the workforce development coordinator at Pell City High School. They also serve as youth directors at New Hope Baptist Church in Pell City.

With their busy jobs, three energetic tots, and a loyal 11 year-old Weimaraner in their home, the Popes have found that sturdy furnishings, no-fuss decor and durable finishes make their lake-loving lifestyle easier, whether they are relaxing after a day at work or hosting an ice cream social for the youth at their church.

"We love using the house for family gettogethers and church gettogethers," Matthew said. "We host parties for the youth group at our church. We attend New Hope Baptist Church in Pell City, and we are active with the youth and children's ministry at the church."

The exterior of their two-story home is covered in HardiePanel, in Sherwin-Williams Adaptive Shade. The boards run vertically around the lower half, while the upper half is covered in exterior cedar HardiesShingle of the same color. Off-white trim

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The master bedroom offers a beautiful view of Logan Martin Lake, where the Popes enjoy spectacular sunrises each morning.

around the windows and dormers and a natural wood door and accents lend an earthy vibe, while the landscaped lawn adds color that changes with the seasons.

One of the first things visitors notice as they walk into the home are the exposed beams in the ceiling of the great room. "We went with the exposed beams to add to the rustic lake feel of the home and to keep the Craftsman style of the home," he said.

An archway with Craftsman-style columns separates the great room and kitchen area, and

the columns are milled to match the fireplace and mantle. A coat of white paint makes the ensemble pop against the neutral wall color. The actual fireplace and hearth are made of rocks stacked in the same fashion as the front entryway.

The kitchen features sand-and-finish hardwood floors, beige granite countertops and a tile backsplash. The cabinets and stove hood are a rich brown color that matches the exposed beams in the great room. It is a simple color palette that makes the open floor plan visually cohesive.

A large, sturdy table in the dining area seats

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eight, and it is a sentimental treasure for the young family.

"That table is made of the actual floor joists from my father's old homeplace," Matthew said. "It was the house he grew up in, and it was more than a hundred years old and dilapidated, and we went in and cut the floor joists out of the house and made the table, and took tongue-and-groove boards from the floors and walls, and we used them to wrap the kitchen island.

"We wanted this to be a cozy, comfortable lake house. Nothing formal. And with three small

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Glover's bedroom is decorated in little-boy fashion, and his convertible crib will serve as a headboard and footboard when he gets older.

The nursery is located in the room originally designated for a home office. Maeva, Glover and Selah have each had their time in the nursery, which is convenient to the master bedroom.

Maeva's room is outfitted with a full-sized bed and plenty of girly accessories.

children, and a dog, we have





found that the simpler, the better. There is nothing breakable or fragile that can be broken, and we just wanted a homey, lived-in feel. As a matter of fact, we told the designer of the house that we felt like we needed a lot of square footage, but we didn't want the house to look large or overwhelming. And I believe they did a fantastic job in packing a lot of square footage into a small footprint. The house just kind of unfolds once you are inside. There is room for all of us, and we have had up to 75 people in the house at one time."

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Matthew and Danielle Pope look forward to the new year with their children, Maeva, Glover and Selah, at their home in The Reserve at Logan Martin Lake Subdivision in Pell City.

A screened-in porch offers extra room for additional guests if the need arises. "The porch is a great place to relax and take in the lake view. It is definitely added living space," he said.

The master bedroom and master bath were designed to take advantage of the view, and

Matthew and Danielle especially enjoy the spectacular sunrises every morning.

"That's been one of the joys for us, living on the lake," he said. "Each sunrise is a reminder of the God we serve and the beauty of His creation, and it gets you up and gets you going on the right foot."

Meet the LMLPA's new president



Tonja Ramey looks forward to helping promote, protect Logan Martin

Written by Sherry Kughn Photographed by Bob Crisp

 onfluence often enhances one's life, and such is the case with Tonja Ramey.

She is the current president of the Logan Martin Lake Protection Association (LMLPA) and, for four years, has served as public relations officer and permit clerk for the city of Lincoln. The roles meet in a manner that Ramey enjoys. As president of LMLPA, she works to achieve its goals of enlisting the help of lake residents in keeping the lake clean, growing membership, educating students about the importance of water protection and conservation, working at various organizations to spread the importance of the association and staying involved in the lake community through representation at public events.

As Lincoln's public relations officer, she informs potential and new residents about the advantages of moving to or near the lake. She fields complaints about litter around the river, and she answers questions about zoning when new developments are planned. She serves as the "information center" for those who come into the city offices and is the city's liaison with the Greater Talladega/Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.

These roles fit her, she says, because she "has always loved working with the public."

Ramey also has personal reasons for enjoying her connection with Logan Martin. She grew up spending her summers on the lake, and she raised her two daughters there. They still enjoy their summers on the



The annual Renew Our Rivers lake clean-up is one of the LMLPA's primary activities.



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A host of happy youngsters was on hand to help the LMLPA clean up during a recent Renew Our Rivers event.

lake, even though they now live in Oxford where Ramey and her husband Bruce (who manages the International Motorsports Hall of Fame at the Talladega Superspeedway) reside.

"I have many memories on Logan Martin Lake and hope my children will carry on the tradition with my soonto-be grandson," she said.

Ramey became involved with LMLPA through a board member who recommended that she join, noting that her professional work and her volunteer efforts with the annual Renew Our Rivers clean-up event would be of benefit to the organization. She was open to the idea and believes, "anything to help clean-up the city, river banks, and waterways is a good idea. I pride myself in doing things to help the City of Lincoln and to help LMLPA do great things."

She is especially proud of the emphasis that LMLPA places on education about water quality, quantity and safety. She is supportive of those who conduct water testing and work with Alabama Water Watch to actively monitor Logan Martin Lake. She considers it important to keep a close watch on lake conditions. Ramey encourages those interested in volunteering to test water quality or with work with Alabama Water Watch to call Isabella Trussell at 205-936-6651.

She also encourages lake residents and users to participate in this year's Renew Our Rivers clean-up, which is celebrating its 20th year. The next event, hosted by the LMLPA and Alabama Power Company, is set for March 30 through April 6.

Ramey salutes the LMLPA's past president, Linda Ruethemann, saying that she is "full of knowledge" and passionate about the organization. She plans to stay in touch with Ruethemann and rely on her assistance. In addition, she plans to continue expanding her own knowledge about her leadership role by meeting with those in the LMLPA and attending conferences.

"I look forward to working with a great board and a great association. I am thrilled to be a part of Logan Martin Lake Protection Association. I invite anyone who is interested in becoming a member to visit our website at www.Imlpa. org or visit the Facebook page."

Potential new LMLPA members or anyone seeking more information about the organization and Logan Martin Lake may email Ramey at president@Imlpa.org.



LMLPA board member Linda Ruethemann provides a water quality testing demonstration for local students.





Written and Photographed by BUDDY ROBERTS

hen Jessica Thompson and her husband Scott returned to her hometown last summer after selling their organic produce delivery business in Atlanta, Logan Martin was a significant factor in their relocation.

"When we wanted to come back here, it was a no-brainer that we'd come to the lake," she said as she stood on the deck of their Cropwell home, looking over its wooded backyard and its tranquil shoreline. "It was lakefront or nothing, not even across the street from the lake. I wanted to open my back door and be there. We get every sunrise and sunset here. This was our retirement dream, and we're living it now."

A landscape designer and proponent of conserving and nurturing native plants, Thompson began work soon after they moved in to transform their entire backyard into a habitat for indigenous flora and fauna. Strolling down to her dock, she discussed her plans, as well as why gardening with native plants is beneficial for the lakeside ecosystem.

Their shoreline property: "I look at it as an ecosystem, as a habitat. I don't remove things, not even the insects. If you have no insects, you will have no waterfowl. Dragonflies, dirt daubers, bees, fruit flies – everything has its proper place. Even bats."

Planning a backyard garden: "Sadly, not much emphasis is placed on using native plants in landscape design or architecture. Most everyone wants to use non-native exotics. But bringing native plants to the garden is the most responsible thing a backyard gardener can do."

What are some examples of local native plants? "Boneset, verbena and ironweed. I had to scour for them when I was in Atlanta, but you see them all over the place here. There are not many wooded areas left on Logan Martin, but Cropwell, St. Clair County and Pell City are still not overdeveloped, so wildflowers still grow here. When you start creating a garden with them, you're actually creating an



Jessica Thompson

ecosystem."

Reflections about returning to the lake: "There are things you forget when you've had the time and space to forget them, things that come rushing back the instant you encounter them again, like a long lost friend. The smell of the river. The wet humid air in your nostrils that has a faint scent of both fresh earth and fish. The constant slight breeze. The stillness of the darkness – it's so dark that you can see every star in the sky, and your brain begins to recognize them again and even name the constellations that still reside somewhere in the corners of your brain.

"The hum of a Mercury engine in the distance is more like a lullaby than a nuisance. Seeing a blue heron or an American pelican is like being on a native safari, when years ago it was just another bird on the dock. No matter how long it's been since I've been on a boat, I have a map of Logan Martin Lake and parts of the Coosa River imprinted in my brain. My dad drilled it in me. When I was as young as 10 years old, he'd quiz me by telling me to drive home in the dark waters, guided only by the dock lights and moonlight.

"'See if you can find your way home,' he would say. 'These lights won't always be the same. You have to learn the river.' I now feel there was something deeper in his words. I did learn the river. And I've finally learned to find my way home."

JANUARY Calendar of events

TUESDAY



MONTH-LONG LIVING ART EXHIBIT

Award-winning artist Dr. Art Bacon will be painting in the Fireplace Gallery of the Heritage Hall Museum (200 South Street East, Talladega) from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. throughout the month. Visitors are welcome to watch, ask questions and engage with the artist during his live demonstrations. For more information, call 256-761-1364.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY



BLACK PANTHER

The popular 2018 superhero film starring Chadwick Boseman will be screened at Talladega's Historic Ritz Theatre as part of the Fall-Winter Film Series. For show times and ticket information, visit www. ritztalladega.com.



MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL

The musical parody featuring classic music from the 60s, 70s and 80s concludes the Historic Ritz Theatre's Fall-Winter Season with three performances. Show times are 7 p.m. Friday and 2:30 and 7 p.m. Saturday. For ticket information, call 256-315-0000 or visit www. ritztalladega.com.





2019 AWARDS LUNCHEON

Former Alabama Crimson Tide quarterback John Parker Wilson will speak during the annual program of the Greater Talladega Area Chamber of Commerce, beginning at noon. Awards will be presented for Talladega, Munford and Lincoln businesses of the year, nonprofit of the year, Valor First Responder of the year and citizen of the year. To order tickets, call 256-362-9075.



Presented by performing arts students at Pell City High School, the event begins at 7 p.m. at the Center for Education and Performing Arts. The cabaret will also be presented on February 1. For more information, call 205-338-1974.





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Logan Martin

JANUARY 2019

A Real Estate Property Guide for Logan Martin Lake and Surrounding Areas



Fields & Gossett Realty 205.884.2300 | 508 Martin Street South, Pell City , AL

JANUARY 2019 | LAKESIDE Living & Logan Martin Homes | 65



Luxurious lakeside living on the Talladega shore

Written by Buddy Roberts Photographed by Bob Crisp

one-of-a-kind property on Logan Martin Lake, the custom-built home at 305 Kradle Kove Drive, Talladega, is ideal for homebuyers seeking the finest in lakeside

luxury.

The 7-bedroom, 6.5-bath home was constructed in 2010. With a total of 8,212 square feet, it features a den/family room, full kitchens on the first and second floors with a kitchenette on the third, laundry facilities on each floor, a safe room, sauna/spa, walk-in closets and heated floors and steam showers in both master suites. Other interior amenities include an elevator, fire-suppressant interior sprinkler system, 10-foot ceilings, two tankless water heaters, a security system, Schonbek crystal chandelier, heavy crown molding, a three-car garage and a 50x70 workshop.

The property boasts more than 800 feet of shoreline, offering breathtaking views of Logan Martin. Exterior amenities include private boathouse with two lifts, a boat launch, a wrap-around porch with swings and a covered deck.

The property lists at \$2,600,000. For more information, call Fields/Gossett Realty at 205-884-2300.

Logan Martin Realtor believes there's nothing better than being at the lake

Written by Buddy Roberts Photograph Submitted

A decorative sign in Nancy Locklar's office reads, "Life is Better at the Lake."

That's something the Realtor has firmly believed since becoming a resident of Logan Martin Lake, and you can't convince her it only applies during warm weather.

"Standing on the other side of the weather, inside in the warmth, drinking coffee and looking out at the lake... it's so therapeutic and reflective. I love looking at the water," she said.

Locklar shares her love for the lake with her clients while representing The Realty Pros in Pell City, and she's known for "selling the lake. I sell all properties, but the lake is my specialty."

She especially loves introducing Logan Martin to potential homebuyers who are interested in waterfront property but have never seen the lake before. "I'll put them in the boat and let them see the area by water first. Last year, I was out on the boat with a couple from Texas, and an eagle came gliding by. They were impressed – I was impressed, too – and they bought a house."

For prospective homebuyers, Locklar recommends having realistic expectations. "Either pick the lot or the house. You're not getting exactly what you want in both. Also, make sure you get an agent who is familiar with the lake (especially the depth of the water at the edge of the dock you're looking at), flood plains and flood insurance (flood insurance scares people, but there's no reason to be scared of it) and shoreline regulations."

For homeowners interested in selling a lake home, working with an experienced agent can be advantageous. "Most sellers sell for a reason," she said. "Death, divorce, major life changes. Now that I'm older, I can relate to all of it. I know how stressful listing and closing



Nancy Locklar

can be. By helping them through it, we as Realtors are forever a part of a change in someone's life."

Buying and selling lakefront real estate tends to be a seasonal business, according to Locklar.

"It slows down once football starts and the water starts going down. Come Aprilish, people start thinking about it again, and it kicks back up. But winter can be a good time to sell. Deal seekers often come out looking for winter homes."

When buying a home on Logan Martin, lake residents become a part of something Locklar believes is quite special.

"The lake is its own community. Even if you don't know your neighbors when you arrive, they become your friends, and you become part of the community. Having a group of peers to connect with and hang out with his important, and it's part of what makes the lake community special."

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\$179,000

1685 SHELTON SHORES DR LINCOLN, AL 35096 MLS: 821705 229,000











130 Jane Street, Vincent Al 35178 MLS#833944

3BR/ 2 Bath. This Home has a breathtaking view of Logan Martin Lake! Located on a flat level lot featuring two boat docks, and a shared boat slip. **Home has a Vincent address but is zoned for Pell City School System ** This home is Lake Life at its finest featuring granite counter tops, hardwood floor, walk in tile shower and much more. Home features a screened in porch that is perfect for your morning coffee, enjoying the evening sunset, and great for entertaining guest. This home was recently updated with new Paint, Granite, and Counter Tops. The hot water heater and heat pump were replaced in the last year. Home includes a 1 Year Home Warranty.





147 Willow Creek Dr., Lincoln Al 35096 MLS# 827664

This home is in a lovely neighborhood. 3BR, 2BA. Only 2 miles from downtown Lincoln. This brick home features wood floors, open kitchen with breakfast area, large living room with cozy fireplace, over sized master bedroom and large master bedroom. Home also features a full unfinished basement which you can make your own. It also has a two car garage to give you even more storage. Large parking area at bottom level of home. This home also features a sellers warranty. Home has a new roof and gutter system that was replaced within the last year. Also, all new decking on the back of them home! Do not let this lovely home getaway? NEW REDUCED PRICED!



475 River Forest Lane, Unit 3420, Talladega, AL 35160 MLS# 827571

This 4th floor 2 Bedroom condo has a breathtaking view of Logan Martin Lake! It was recently updated with wood floors and fresh paint. This FULLY FURNISHED condo is MOVE IN READY so the new owners can enjoy Lake Life at its finest! Condo features granite kitchen counter tops, stainless steel appliances, tray ceilings in living room, tile floors in kitchen and bathrooms, breakfast bar in kitchen. It also features an open floor plan from kitchen to living room which makes it great for entertaining guest. Zoned LINCOLN SCHOOL DISTRICT Ammenties include community pool, community boat docks and launch, boardwalk, and much more.



5.11 Acres. This land is breathtaking! It features a gorgeous barn with approximately 7 stalls. It has the view of Logan Martin Lake directly across the street. Land has gate access from the road with concrete drive to the barn. Land is fenced and would be perfect land to board horses. It was also be great to put a weeding venue or to build your dream home. Land like this is a rare find. It also has a well on the land but not in working order and would need to be checked by someone licensed in that field.Owner is deed restring property to site built homes only



Eureka Road. Beautiful land that is perfect to build your dream Lake home! Seller has recent survey. This Acreage is also zoned for Lincoln School System.



122 Peaceful Lane, Talladega, AL 35160 MLS# 832192

This Stunning Brick Home Is Located In The SouthBend Subdivision. It features Granite Counter Tops, Hardwood, Tile, Large Master Bedroom and Master Bathroom. It Also Features A Newly Added "Mother In Law" Suite with its own private bathroom and Office/ Study. This Home Has A Full Basement With A Two Car Garage. Zoned for the LINCOLN SCHOOL DISTRICT. This Home Is Move In Ready And Includes a 1 Year Home Warranty!



2816 Hubbard Lane, Oxford, AL 36203 MLS# 825193 \$127,900

This freshly painted home has all the amenities you could ask for in a home! It's conveniently located near the Oxford Exchange. It has 3 bedrooms and 2 baths with a large fenced in back yard. Located in the Oxford school district. Don't miss this cute and cozy home at a great price!



65 Bulldog Cir., Cropwell, AL 35054 MLS# 826121

4BR, 4.5BA. Waterfront Home. This home has one of the best views of Logan Martin Lake. It has a FLAT lot with a breathtaking view of the Lake. Plenty of amenities to make this house stand out from any you have seen before! It features a gorgeous pool, outdoor grilling and entertaining area, and gorgeous bay windows so you never miss a view of the lake while you enjoy this lake home. The panoramic lake view is a Must SEE! It also features 2 Master Bedroom Suites, over-sized Walk-In Closets, and 4.5 Baths. The pool overlooks the lake while you can enjoy the 20x40 ft pier with walkways and a boat launch. This home is one of a kind with its breathtaking view, which you can enjoy while having your morning coffee or while entertaining guest at night with the beautiful lake setting.

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555 Sunset Rd., Pell City, AL 35120 4 BR, 3 Full- 1/2 BA

Turn the key on this main level home and come into your own piece of heaven! As you enter the foyer, the high ceilings, crown molding, new flooring, neutral colors and massive columns are captivating & really give the home a grand feeling although it is so cozy with 2 gas fireplaces and beautiful mantles. The open concept den and updated kitchen are perfect for entertaining family & friends! The spacious master suite is fantastic with a large tile shower & huge closet. The 2nd & 3rd bedrooms share a bath while the 4th makes a perfect guest suite with a full bath. NEW ROOF, HVAC & garage door motors! Community boat launch, pool and tennis courts add to the desire of living in Eagle Pointe subdivision near Logan Martin Lake. 14 lush fenced acres with a 2 stall barn, 1.5 acre stocked pond and commercial lightng are also available in addition to the home. Come see it !



1030 Images Sq., Cropwell, AL 35054 5 BR, 4 BA - 3,662 sq ft

This 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath jewel house will blow you away, with its high ceilings, huge kitchen that has granite, stainless appls, island, breakfast area, work desk & lots of cabinets. A formal dining room with coffered ceilings is the perfect spot for family meals. The lakeside den has amazing lake views & a stacked stone, wood burning fireplace with gas starter. The covered porches & private boat dock invite you to enjoy the lake views & a ctivity! The large master suite offers space for both with its own private, lakeside deck. The 2nd bedroom has its own bath while the 3rd & 4th spacious bedrooms share a large hallway bath. The upstairs loft area & second kitchen add a space for relaxing and convenience for making that first cup of coffee, without having to go downstairs. The 2 car garage offers additional storage space. The community pool is only steps away from your front door. MLS #818955



200 Hunter Ridge Ln., Pell City, AL 351285 BR, 3 Full- 1/2BA \$374,900

The inventory for an elegant custom built home in a highly desirable neighborhood is low so don't wait on calling this fantastic house your own before the holidays! From the moment you enter the drive then walk through the lead glass front door, you will be captivated by the high ceilings, detailed crown molding, arch doorways and exquisite staircase. Stroll into the family room on gleaming hardwood floors and feel the coziness it offers with a gas fireplace & built-in nooks. The kitchen with granite counters, espresso detailed cabinetry & breakfast area will wow you! The spacious master suite is the PERFECT retreat to relax away your day with a jetted tub, double vanity & walk in shower. CLOSETS GALORE. Upstairs, 3 bedrooms & a large bath are perfect for a large family or guests. The finished basement with entrance, a 2 car garage & tons of storage is ideal for an in-law suite! The community pool, tennis courts & boat launch are yours for a small HOA fee. Turn the key & come home!



81 Lakeside Valley Dr., Pell City, AL, 35120 4 BR, 2 BA

MLS #823887 This new 4 sided brick construction in the beautiful Reserve of Logan Martin subdivision is the perfect place to call home. From the brick to the interior colors on the walls & custom hardwood floors , every detail has been thought out by the builder. The level back yard would be an ideal spot for that pool you may have been dreaming of 1 The master suite offers a double vanity and large stone shower. Bedrooms 2&3 share a spacious hall bath. The upstairs bonus room is ideal for a 4th bedroom or office. To finish off the new home, there is gorgeous granite & stainless appliances in the kitchen and irrigation for your new landscaping. The lake view and common boat launch on the main channel are a bonus. Pack your lake toys and a cooler, its time to enjoy Logan Martin Lake in the Reserve!!

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3215 Dr. John Haynes Drive - \$210,000. Two 75X150 Lots, 31 Warehouse 11-10X20= \$60.00 Ea 11-10X15=\$55.00 Ea 5-6X10 =\$30.00 Ea 1- Double 10X20 \$150.00 1 Double 10X15= \$130.00. This property offers 2005 By 150 Lots. On one of the lots there's A 31 unit wearhouse. Several different sizes. The other lot is vacant and fenced. MLS #726742

000266504R1

LOTS AND LAND

•TWO EAGLE POINTE LOTS, \$14,900 MLS #76033 AND MLS #760336

• SEMINOLE TRAIL - MAYS BEND WATER FRONT \$43,000 MLS #814655

•COTTON TOP FARMS, 4 LOTS.



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